

## A NEW VICTORIAN ARANEID.

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### Family ZODARIIDAE.

This family constitutes a very small section of our Australian Araneidæ. Up to the present moment two genera only have been known to occur in Australia, namely, *Cryptothele*, L. Koch, and *Storcna*, Walck., and these belong to two distinct sub-families: *Cryptathelinae*, and *Zodariinae* respectively. The former sub-family embraces one genus only, and that is the one indicated; also, it is almost strictly tropical, Simon defining its geographical range as follows:—"Ins. Seychellæ (*Alluaudi* E. Sim.); ins. Taprobane; penins Malayana; Nova-Guinea; ins. Latronum (*Marehei* E. Sim.); ins. Viti et Samoa. (1) To this range I add Queensland, as far south as the Blackall Ranges and some of the larger islands of the Great Barrier Reef. I have also seen specimens from around Darwin, Northern Territory.

The species of *Cryptothele* are spiders of moderate size, short-legged, sturdy, of exceedingly rugged and striking appearance, and remarkable for the hardness of their integuments; they are usually brown or earth-coloured, and with legs bunched up suggest a piece of rough bark. Only seven species of the genus are known, and of these the sole Australian representative is *C. darcynana*, Simon, a New Guinea form. On the other hand the spiders comprising the genus *Storcna* are somewhat graceful; their legs are moderately long and tapering, and their colour usually shining black with pale yellowish abdominal spots or markings. These latter are usually large and very distinctive. Twenty-six species of the genus have now been described from Australia: it is a widely distributed, its geographical range being "Regio mediterranea occid. et orient; Africa trop.; Indo-China; Malaisia; N.-Guinea; N.-Hollandia; N.-Caledonia et Polynesia; Amer. septentr., æquator, et australis." (2) To the genera here enumerated I now add *Neastorcna*, hereafter described.

### Sub-family ZODARIINAE.

In his great classic, "Histoire Naturelle des Araignées," 2nd edition, vol. i., Simon divides this sub-family into five groups, namely, *Hermippeae*, *Storcnaeae*, *Suffusciae*, *Zodariæae*, and *Paestestinae*, but it is not possible to place the form herewith described in any of these, hence it is necessary to establish a new group and a new genus for its reception. Briefly and succinctly stated, it comes nearest to the *Storcnaeae* by the number of tarsal claws (three) and the absence of an onychium, but it differs therefrom by the presence of two minute teeth on the superior margin of each falx. On page 426 of Simon's work, quoted above, the author says:—

"Les chélicènes offrent, comme je, l'ai dit, à la marge supérieure, une petit dent, obtuse et très reculée, qui manque aux autres Zodariïdes." I therefore propose a new group or section to be known as *Neastorcnaeae*, with *Neastorcna* as a generic name, and *N. venatoria* as its type.

### Group NEOSTORENEAE.

#### Genus NEOSTORENA, gen. nov.

*Cephalothorax*.—Convex, obovate, somewhat attenuated in front, median fovea longitudinal. *Eyes*.—Eight; in two rows of four each; both rows strongly procurved. *Legs*.—Moderately long, not strong, tapering; claws, three; relative lengths: 4, 1, 2, 3. *Palpi*.—Short, feeble. *Falces*.—Moderately long, tapering; fang small, weak. *Maxillae*.—Short, inclined inwards. *Labium*.—Longer than broad, coniform. *Sternum*.—Shield-shaped, posterior extremity obtuse. *Abdomen*.—Ovate. *Spinners*.—Six; short; posterior pair much the longest, and median pair much the smallest.

<sup>1</sup> Simon.—Hist. Nat. des Araign.; vol. i. 2nd ed., 1892 (1893), p. 423.

<sup>2</sup> Simon.—Op. cit., p. 430.

*NEOSTORENA VENATORIA*, sp. nov.

Fig. 2



Fig. 1



Fig. 3

Fig. 1. *Neostorena venatoria*, Rainbow.

Fig. 2. Eyes and palces.

Fig. 3. Epigynum.

*Cephalothorax* ♀ 7.7 m.m. long, 5.2 m.m. broad; *abdomen*, 11 mm. long, 7.3 m.m. broad (fig. 1).

*Cephalothorax*.—Obovate smooth dark brown, shining. *Pars cephalica* strongly elevated and arched, sloping forward and rearward; sides declivous; a few long coarse scattered hairs spread over the surface; groove separating cephalic and thoracic segments distinct; *clypeus* deep, sloping inwards, thickly fringed with long coarse hairs. *Pars thoracica* arched, radial grooves distinct; *thoracic fovea* moderately deep, longitudinal; *marginal band*, broad, white.

*Eyes*.—Eight, in two rows of four each; both rows strongly procurved; front median eyes largest of the group and separated from each other by a space equal to about one-half their individual diameter, side eyes equal in size to rear median (fig. 2).

*Legs*.—Moderately long, tapering, upper surfaces pubescent; sides and inferior surfaces also pubescent, and sparingly furnished with a few long hairs; inferior surface of femora i. and ii. more thickly clothed than the rest; each tibia, metatarsus and tarsus armed with a series of short moderately strong spines; each femur is yellow from base to about midway, thence dark brown to apex; all other joints reddish-brown; claws, three; superior claws long, furnished at base with a comb of seven teeth; inferior claw, very small. Measurements in millimetres as follows:—

Leg.	Coxa	Trochanter and Femur.	Patella and Tibia.	Metatarsus and Tarsus.	Total.
1	2.6	7	6.7	7.4	23.7
2	2.6	6.1	6.4	7.2	22.3
3	2.2	6	4.2	7.1	19.5
4	2.6	7.4	6.5	9.7	26.2

*Palpi*.—Short, not strong; femur yellowish; other joints reddish brown; thickly clothed with short, black pubescence, and sparingly furnished with a few long, black hairs; tarsi armed with a few short spines; claw long, not toothed. Measurements in millimetres as follow:—Trochanter and femur, 3.3; patella and tibia, 2.7; tarsus, 2.3; total, 8.3

*Falces*.—Reddish-brown, hairy, tapering; outer angle of furrow of each falx armed with two very small teeth at apex, close to base of fang; fang small, weak.

*Maxillae*.—Yellowish, with a large reddish-brown patch at inner angle near base; short, arched, curving inwards, apices acuminate, surface moderately clothed with coarse, black hairs.

*Labium*.—Reddish-brown at base, sides and apex yellow, longer than broad, coniform.

*Sternum*.—Rather small, broad, somewhat shield-shaped, slightly arched, yellow, sparingly clothed with short, stiff, black hairs.

*Abdomen*.—Ovate, slightly overhanging base of cephalothorax, dull yellowish, clouded with patches of dark brown; a rather broad, yellowish, tapering stripe commences near middle of upper surface, and terminates slightly in front of spinnerets; the surface both above, laterally, and ventrally moderately clothed with short, black hairs.

*Epigynum*.—Small, almost circular (fig. 3).

*Spinnerets*.—Six; yellow; hairy; superior pair, although not exceedingly long, are nevertheless much longer than their neighbours; they are coniform, thick at base and tapering, three-jointed, the median joint being the longest, and the apical the smallest; this pair are poised upon a rather long, broad, rounded, tubercular projection, on the superior surface of which there is, at the centre a rather thick tuft of coarse, black hairs; immediately in front of the superior spinnerets, there is a procurved row of four, and of these the two comprising the median pair are close together and are, also, exceedingly small; the outer spinnerets are short, cylindrical, their apices extending just beyond the base of the superior pair.

*Hab.*—Fern-tree Gully, Victoria.

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